

Ontario Expanding Nursing Care

May 10, 2012

Ontario is creating over 900 new nursing positions throughout the health care system to ensure Ontarians receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place. These nursing positions include:

Rapid Response Nursing (126)

Rapid response nurses provide the first in-home nursing visit to patients with high-risk conditions within 24 hours of being discharged from hospital. They help patients with the transition from acute hospital care to home care – connecting them with the care they need and ensuring the appropriate medication use – reducing the risk of hospital readmission.

Nurses for Behavioural Supports (200)

Nurses provide support for the increasingly complex residents in long-term care homes. They provide the appropriate assessment and development of plans of care for residents who exhibit behaviours such as: aggression, wandering, resistance to care and agitation. This ensures there are prompt and appropriate interventions for individuals who often no longer can properly communicate their true needs. This works to reduce incidents of abuse and conflict in long-term care homes. These nurses will improve outcomes for residents and reduce the strain for families and other health care providers.

Telemedicine Nurses (191)

Telemedicine nurses support patients in remote areas while they receive care from specialists through video hook-up, reducing the need for travel. Nurses are in the same location as the patients, supporting them during the visit and assisting with the use of tele-diagnostic equipment such as a digital stethoscope, otoscope (to examine the ears), and a patient examination camera. The information from these medical devices is relayed electronically to the specialist.

Nurses Supporting Mental Health In Schools (144)

These nurses work in schools to support early identification and intervention of students with potential mental health and/or addiction issues. They assess students and develop plans of care, provide direct service for mild cases, and offer support and referral for more complex issues. The nurses help students find mental health/addiction services or health care providers they need within the community.

Ambulance Dedicated Nurses (59)

Ambulance dedicated nurses provide care to non-urgent ambulance patients arriving in hospital emergency departments (ER). These nurses help reduce the time paramedics spend in hospital ERs by allowing paramedics to respond to other calls in the community rather than attending to patients in the ER. Municipalities that have hired dedicated ER nurses in the past have reported seeing significant reductions in offload delays.

Nurse Practitioners in Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics (53)

Nurse Practitioners provide comprehensive, accessible, and coordinated family health care services through Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics to populations who have difficulty accessing a primary care provider.

Registered Nurse-Surgical First Assists (37)

Registered Nurse-Surgical First Assists work with the surgeon and the rest of the operating room team to ensure the safe outcome for a patient before, during and after surgery.

Nurse-Led Long-Term Care Outreach Teams (30)

Nurse outreach teams travel to long-term care homes to assess the health care needs of residents. The teams work to keep residents in good health and treat minor illnesses before they become worse. The nurses can also provide health care services – such as intravenous therapy, antibiotic management and oxygen administration – at the long-term care home instead of having the resident go to hospital.

Nurse Practitioners for Aboriginal Populations (24)

Nurse Practitioners work at the ten Aboriginal Health Access Centres and two Aboriginal Community Health Centres to support chronic disease management as well as mental health and addiction services. The nurses provide traditional health and wellness services and contemporary primary health care services to Aboriginal patients in a culturally appropriate setting.

Nurses for Early Psychosis Intervention Teams (21)

These nurses work on community-based Early Psychosis Intervention Teams which are involved with the early identification and intervention of teenagers and young adults with a suspected first episode of psychosis. The nurses monitor medications and other medical interventions, educate clients and their families, perform assessments, draft plans of care, provide individual and family counselling and support, and link clients to primary care services.

Nurse Practitioners for Eating Disorders (19)

These Nurse Practitioners work with interdisciplinary teams to provide ongoing health monitoring and provision of primary care to clients of all ages with eating disorders. They liaise with physicians and inpatient services to help facilitate patient management, and also provide care to more complex clients and support group psychotherapy.

Patient Navigators in Cancer Care (14)

Patient navigators are nurses with a specialized education in cancer care who support patients during the period they are being diagnosed. They assist patients from the time they are referred by their family doctor until their diagnosis is complete. The nurses conduct assessments, make referrals, provide patient education, develop plans of care, and do follow-ups.

Discharge Navigators (4)

Discharge navigators are Registered Nurses who support patients at high risk of readmission to hospital by coordinating care after they are discharged. These nurses prepare care plans for patients and conduct assessments in the patient's home when necessary.

In addition, seven new nursing positions are being created at Orleans Urgent Care Clinic (5) in Ottawa and Sanctuary Health Clinic (2) in Toronto to support the needs of these communities.

Zita Astravas, Minister's Office, 416-327-9728
Tori Gass, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,
416-314-6197

ontario.ca/health-news
Disponible en français